

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed November 21, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending and stand rejected.

Claim Objectives

Claims 1 and 15 were objected to for informalities. The informalities raised have been addressed by amendment. Favorable action is requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 1-54 of U.S. Patent 6,602,920, Claims 1-36 of U.S. Patent 6,323,247, and Claims 1-54 of U.S. Patent 6,130,260. The Examiner indicates that a timely filed Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) or § 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground. Without addressing whether or not this rejection is correct on the merits, Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer. Favorable action is requested.

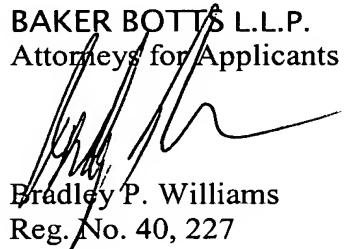
CONCLUSIONS

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no other fees are due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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